

## Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIEP-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /109 W

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R 131215Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8942

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 7130

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: JA KS

SUBJ: SOUTH KOREAN CONGEN'S APPROACH RE  
KOREAN-JAPANESE RELATIONS

1. SOUTH KOREAN COUNSUL GENERAL, AMBASSADOR  
DR. WEE DON CHANG, CALLED YESTERDAY TO ASK FOR "URGENT"  
MEETING. PURPOSE TURNED OUT TO BE FOLLOWING:

2. AFTER FIRST DESCRIBING HIMSELF AS A LONG-TIME FRIEND  
AND ASSOCIATE OF PRESIDENT PARK, DR. CHANG SAID  
HE WISHED TO SPEAK TO ME IN A PURELY PERSONAL CAPACITY.  
HE THEN ADVERTED TO THE SEVERE STRAINS THAT HAVE  
DEVELOPED BETWEEN SOUTH KOREA JAPAN IN THE WAKE  
OF THE ASSASSINATION OF MRS. PARK. HE FEARS SOUTH  
KOREAN GOVERNMENTAL AND PUBLIC REACTION TO WHAT ARE  
REGARDED INADEQUATE GOJ EFFORTS TO INVESTIGATE  
MATTER IS REACHING A POINT WHERE ROK MAY SEVER RELATIONS  
WITH JAPAN. HE THINKS THIS WOULD BE A SERIOUS MISTAKE  
AND PLAY INTO NORTH KOREAN HANDS. SOMETHING SHOULD  
BE DONE QUCILY TO REDRESS THE SITUATION.

3. SINCE HE ASSUMES USG MUST SHARE THIS VIEW, HE  
SUGGESTED USG INTERVENTION MIGHT BE USEFUL. SPECIFI-  
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CALLY, HE NOTED THAT JAPANESE PRIMIN TANAKA WILL

SHORTLY VISIT THE US AND WONDERED WHETHER THAT MIGHT OFFER A SUITABLE OCCASION FOR DISCREET USG ENCOURAGEMENT TO GOJ TO MEND ITS FENCES WITH FOR'S ANNOUNCED TRIP TO JAPAN AND ADVANCED PERSONAL OPINION THAT THE PRESIDENT SHOULD ALSO GO TO SEOUL. SUCH A VISIT, HE OPINED, WOULD HELP TO A) AMELIORATE SOUTH KOREAN-JAPANESE TENSIONS, B) GIVE BADLY NEEDED REASSURANCES TO SOUTH KOREAN GOVT AND PEOPLE, WHO NOW FELT "ISLOATED," AND C) SIGNAL THE NORTH KOREANS TO LAY OFF.

4. I EXPRESSED VIEW THIS IS MATTER ROK SHOULD DISCUSS DIRECTLY WITH US. QUESTIONS WOULD CERTAINLY BE ASKED ABOUT HIS AND MY STANDINGS IN A MATTER OF THIS SORT. HE AGREED, BUT SAID ROK IS NOW SO EMOTIONALLY INVOLVED THAT IT IS UNABLE TO DO SO. HE AGAIN REMINDED ME THAT THE HAD BEEN A CLOSE ASSOCIATE OF PRESIDENT PARK AND SAID THAT HE KNOWS THE PRESIDENT'S CURRENT STATE OF MIND. AT THE SAME TIME, HE CONTENTED ROK WUUDL WELCOME SUCH INTERVENTION.

5. I TOLD HIM I WOULD REPORT HIS APPROACH, BUT I COULD CLEARLY MAKE NO COMMENT ON IT. HE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION. IN ANSER TO MY QUERY, HE SAID HE, TOO, WOULD REPORT HIS APPROACH TO ME, BUT INSISTED APPROACH NOT MADE ON INSTRUCTIONS.

6. COMMENT: EMBASSIES SEOUL AND TOKYO BETTER ABLE TO JUDGE VALIDITY OF CHANG'S COMMENTS AND VIABILITY HIS PROPOSAL.  
EILTS

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## Message Attributes

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